



# ESDN VNR Peer Review Workshop

05 June

## Agenda

05 June 2024

Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU

Avenue de Cortenbergh 30  
1040 Brussels  
Organized by the

European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)  
in cooperation with the  
Belgian Interministerial Conference on Sustainable Development  
&  
The Austrian Federal Chancellery  
&  
The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



# Wednesday, 05 June 2024

12:00 – 12:30 CEST

## Registration and Pre-Workshop Light Lunch

Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU

Avenue de Cortenbergh 30  
1040 Brussels  
Organized by the

12:30 – 12:45 CEST

## Workshop Welcome and Orientation

12:30 – 12:35

### ESDN Welcome

**Taru Savolainen**, ESDN Vice President, Deputy Secretary General of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, Prime Minister's Office, Finland

&

**Jeannette Muller**, ESDN Vice President, Advisor for Sustainable Development, Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, Luxembourg

12:35 – 12:40

### Workshop Orientation

**Valentine van Gameren**, Ministry of Wallonia - Sustainable Development unit, Secretariat of the Belgian Interministerial Conference on Sustainable Development (IMCSD), Belgium

12:40 – 12:45

### Workshop Introduction

**Gerald Berger**, Moderator

12:45 – 13:35 CEST

## Session 1: Sincere Governmental Self-Evaluation

12:45 – 12:50

### Austria

**Sabine Schneeberger**, ESDN Advisory Board Member, Federal Chancellery, Austria

12:50 – 12:55

### Belgium

**Cédric van de Walle**, ESDN Advisory Board Member, Federal Institute for Sustainable Development, Member of the Belgian Interministerial Conference on Sustainable Development (IMCSD), Belgium

12:55 – 13:00

### Switzerland

**Henrike Beckmann**, Deputy Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Federal Department for International Affairs, Switzerland

13:00 – 13:35

## Country Table Exchanges

### Table 1: Austria

**Sabine Schneeberger**, ESDN Advisory Board Member, Federal Chancellery, Austria

### Table 2: Belgium

**Cédric van de Walle**, ESDN Advisory Board Member, Federal Institute for Sustainable Development, Member of the Belgian Interministerial Conference on Sustainable Development (IMCSD), Belgium

### Table 3: Switzerland

**Henrike Beckmann**, Deputy Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Federal Department for International Affairs, Switzerland

1. How can a VNR be an honest governmental self-evaluation of policies and their effective contribution to the SDGs? (rather than a list of plans, programs, and good practices)
2. How do you focus on new policies since your country's first VNR and for the most challenging SDGs?
3. Which are the interactions between political actors and the administration in the elaboration of the report?
4. Do you have interactions with evaluation or control organizations (Court of Audit, Parliament, scientific organizations, others) on the implementation of SDGs in your country?
5. Is your VNR based on SDG indicators followed-up by your National Statistical Office?

---

13:35 – 13:50 CEST

## Reporting back from Session 1

---

13:50 – 14:40 CEST

## Session 2: VNR methodologies and Peer Review

---

13:50 – 13:55

### Austria

**Klaus Steiner**, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria

13:55 – 14:00

### Belgium

**Valentine van Gameren**, Ministry of Wallonia - Sustainable Development unit, Secretariat of the Belgian Interministerial Conference on Sustainable Development (IMCSD), Belgium

14:00 – 14:05

### Switzerland

**Henrike Beckmann**, Deputy Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Federal Department for International Affairs, Switzerland

14:05 – 14:40

## Country Table Exchanges

### Table 1: Austria

**Klaus Steiner**, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria

### Table 2: Belgium

**Valentine van Gameren**, Ministry of Wallonia - Sustainable Development unit, Secretariat of the Belgian Interministerial Conference on Sustainable Development (IMCSD), Belgium

### Table 3: Switzerland

**Henrike Beckmann**, Deputy Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Federal Department for International Affairs, Switzerland

1. Which guidelines (i.e. UNDESA Handbook) did you use for writing your VNR?
2. What was the internal coordination mechanism(s) for elaborating your country's VNR (horizontal mechanisms throughout the same level and vertical mechanisms between the levels in a federal state)?
3. How does your VNR include a comparative approach with regards to other countries?
4. Have you already experienced a peer review related to a VNR and how did you run it? If not, what are your views on the 'ideal' peer review process:
  - a. timing (ex ante or ex post)
  - b. countries (comparable profile or not)
  - c. methodology
  - d. lessons learned (advantages / disadvantages)

---

14:40 – 14:55 CEST

## Reporting back from Session 2

---

14:55 – 15:20 CEST

Coffee Break

---

15:20 – 16:10 CEST

## Session 3: Contributions from Civil Society

---

15:20 – 15:25

### Austria

**Anna Muner-Bretter**, Federal Chancellery, Austria

15:25 – 15:30

### Belgium

**Ilse Dries**, Ministry of Flanders - Chancellery and Foreign Affairs, Belgium

15:30 – 15:35

### Switzerland

**Henrike Beckmann**, Deputy Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Federal Department for International Affairs, Switzerland

15:35 – 16:10

## Country Table Exchanges

### Table 1: Austria

**Anna Muner-Bretter**, Federal Chancellery, Austria

### Table 2: Belgium

**Ilse Dries**, Ministry of Flanders - Chancellery and Foreign Affairs, Belgium

### Table 3: Switzerland

**Henrike Beckmann**, Deputy Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Federal Department for International Affairs, Switzerland

1. How did you make sure civil society was involved in the VNR process?
  - a. In which ways can contributions be made?
  - b. What are the different timings or stages of the various interactions between government and civil society?
  - c. How do you integrate civil society input into the actual VNR (i.e. through shadow reports, separate civil society chapters, or throughout other chapters)?
2. Which type of actors have been associated?
3. What was their opinion on the participatory process and the content of the VNR?

---

16:10 – 16:25 CEST

## Reporting back from Session 3

---

16:25 – 16:30 CEST

## Workshop Close

---

16:25 – 16:30

### Host Perspective on VNR Peer Reviews

**Marie Bourgeois**, Ministry of Wallonia - Sustainable Development unit, Secretariat of the Belgian Interministerial Conference on Sustainable Development (IMCSD), Belgium

---

16:30 CEST

## Workshop End

---